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Total cruise passenger traffic during the third quarter of 2020 amounted to 7,018, a decrease of 97.3 per cent over the corresponding period in 2019.

## Cruise Passengers: Q3/2020

There were 7 cruise liner calls during the third quarter of 2020, one hundred and fifteen less than the previous year. Transit passengers accounted for the absolute majority of total traffic, reaching 7,016. On average, every vessel that berthed in Malta carried 1,003 passengers, 1,105 less than the previous year.

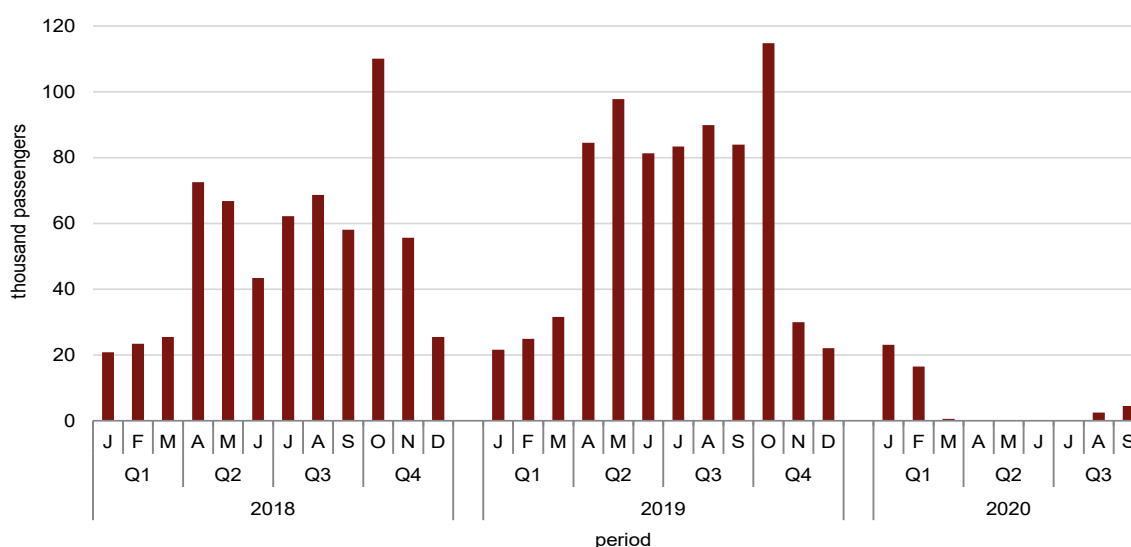
Passengers from EU Member States comprised 96.9 per cent of total traffic. The major markets were Italy accounting for 78.9 per cent of the total passengers, followed by France with 9.3 per cent. The total number of passengers from Non-EU countries stood at 216, of whom 6.5 per cent came from the United Kingdom.

On a gender basis, female passengers made up 51.2 per cent of the total. The largest share of passengers fell within the 40-59 age bracket and were followed by those aged between 20 and 39 years (Table1).

### January-September 2020

During the first 9 months of the year, total cruise passengers stood at 47,193, a decrease of 92.1 per cent over 2019. Of these, 60.0 per cent came from EU Member States. The most significant decrease were recorded in the German, American and Italian markets. The majority of the passengers were females amounting to 24,845 or 52.6% of the total. Most passengers were between 40 and 59 years old, totalling 15,450. These were followed by passengers aged 60-79 years, reaching 11,505. There were 16 cruise liner calls during the first three quarters of 2020, with an average 2,950 passengers per vessel, compared to 273 calls and an average 2,194 passengers per vessel in the comparative period of 2019 (Table 2) ■

**Chart 1. Total cruise passenger traffic**



Statistics in this News Release should be interpreted in the context of the COVID-19 situation.

Table 1. Cruise passengers: Quarterly 2018-2020

Characteristics	July-September			Change 2020/2019
	2018	2019	2020	
<b>Total traffic<sup>1</sup>:</b>	<b>188,943</b>	<b>257,178</b>	<b>7,018</b>	<b>-250,160</b>
<b>Transit</b>	<b>151,204</b>	<b>191,469</b>	<b>7,016</b>	<b>-184,453</b>
<b>Landed</b>	<b>37,739</b>	<b>65,709</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-65,707</b>
<i>of which:</i>				
Passengers on cruise liners berthed in Gozo	6,819	5,588	-	-
Passengers staying overnight	12,044	4,449	-	-
<b>Country<sup>2</sup> of Nationality</b>				
<b>EU</b>	<b>126,303</b>	<b>169,598</b>	<b>6,802</b>	<b>-162,796</b>
<i>of which:</i>				
France	8,481	8,004	651	-7,353
Germany	27,549	55,929	246	-55,683
Italy	15,647	17,695	5,534	-12,161
Malta	5,463	7,443	-	-
Spain	9,575	16,288	74	-16,214
United Kingdom	45,855	48,128	n/a	n/a
<b>Non-EU</b>	<b>62,640</b>	<b>87,580</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>-87,364</b>
<i>of which:</i>				
Australia	7,956	8,198	-	-
Canada	6,981	11,420	-	-
Japan	758	1,163	4	-1,159
United Kingdom	n/a	n/a	14	n/a
United States	27,346	42,721	3	-42,718
<b>Sex:</b>				
Males	90,437	118,683	3,423	-115,260
Females	98,506	138,495	3,595	-134,900
<b>Age group:</b>				
0-19	28,213	38,643	1,564	-37,079
20-39	27,671	37,302	2,098	-35,204
40-59	67,612	91,805	2,462	-89,343
60-79	60,528	82,909	815	-82,094
80+	4,919	6,519	79	-6,440
<b>Cruise liner calls<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>95</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>-115</b>

<sup>1</sup> See methodological note 5.

<sup>2</sup> See methodological notes 3 and 4.

<sup>3</sup> Owing to the COVID-19 situation, the first cruise liner call was on 21 August 2020 since 10 March 2020.

Note: n/a: not applicable

**Table 2. Cruise passengers: Cumulative 2018-2020**

Characteristics	January-September			Change 2020/2019
	2018	2019	2020	
<b>Total traffic<sup>1</sup>:</b>	<b>441,547</b>	<b>598,837</b>	<b>47,193</b>	<b>-551,644</b>
Transit	374,027	479,993	47,132	-432,861
Landed	67,520	118,844	61	-118,783
<i>of which:</i>				
Passengers visiting Gozo	11,309	8,009	-	-
Passengers staying overnight	26,616	12,868	893	-11,975
<b>Country<sup>2</sup> of Nationality</b>				
<b>EU</b>	<b>295,891</b>	<b>393,659</b>	<b>28,314</b>	<b>-365,345</b>
<i>of which:</i>				
France	34,606	31,022	4,934	-26,088
Germany	66,860	115,146	2,760	-112,386
Italy	52,895	64,053	14,713	-49,340
Malta	7,493	10,132	2	-10,130
Spain	19,554	31,289	2,361	-28,928
United Kingdom	84,373	102,893	n/a	n/a
<b>Non-EU</b>	<b>145,656</b>	<b>205,178</b>	<b>18,879</b>	<b>-186,299</b>
<i>of which:</i>				
Australia	17,814	20,815	507	-20,308
Canada	13,599	21,333	444	-20,889
Japan	6,009	6,692	1,854	-4,838
United Kingdom	n/a	n/a	2,893	n/a
United States	53,409	86,504	2,797	-83,707
<b>Sex:</b>				
Males	206,614	275,543	22,348	-253,195
Females	234,933	323,294	24,845	-298,449
<b>Age group:</b>				
0-19	56,034	79,085	9,071	-70,014
20-39	59,036	82,761	9,859	-72,902
40-59	142,844	195,793	15,450	-180,343
60-79	168,830	221,641	11,505	-210,136
80+	14,803	19,557	1,308	-18,249
<b>Cruise liner calls<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>215</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>-257</b>

<sup>1</sup> See methodological note 5.

<sup>2</sup> See methodological notes 3 and 4.

<sup>3</sup> Owing to the COVID-19 situation, the first cruise liner call was on 21 August 2020 since 10 March 2020.

Note: n/a: not applicable

## Methodological Notes

1. The data in this release is compiled on the basis of administrative records supplied by Transport Malta.
2. Cruise liners calling at both Malta and Gozo during a single voyage are recorded as one cruise liner call.
3. Owing to the UK's exit from the European Union (with effect from 1st February 2020), UK data is statistically classified as Non-EU from January 2020 for all the tables. Requests for further clarification may be directed to the Tourism and Education Statistics Unit.
4. Due to the UK's re-classification following exit from the European Union on 1st February 2020, comparability of totals between same periods should be treated with caution.
5. The majority of passengers embarking on cruise liners from Malta generally end their trip at the same destination. Embarkations are therefore not included in total traffic figures, in order to avoid double counting. This measure was adopted as from News Release no. 079/2013, dated 23 April 2013. The referred news release also includes figures for 2011 and 2012.

For clarity, embarkation figures for the period under review are being provided:

Embarkations	2018	2019	2020
July-September	37,148	65,850	61
January-September	66,701	117,560	107

### 6. Definitions:

- **Cruise passenger traffic:** comprises transit passengers and passengers who land in Malta.
  - **Embarkations:** comprise all cruise passengers who are either Maltese or who are foreigners who arrive in Malta by other means of transport.
  - **Transit passengers:** comprise all cruise passengers who arrive in and leave Malta on the same cruise ship.
  - **Landed passengers:** comprise all cruise passengers who arrive in Malta on a cruise ship and leave by other means of transport, or alternatively, stay in Malta.
  - **Passengers staying overnight:** comprise passengers who spend at least one night in the Maltese Islands, either onboard the cruise ship or on land.
  - **Average number of passengers per vessel:** computed by dividing total cruise passenger traffic by the number of cruise liner calls.
7. More information relating to this news release may be accessed at:  
[Statistical Concepts: http://nso.gov.mt/metadata/concepts.aspx](http://nso.gov.mt/metadata/concepts.aspx)
  8. Any quotations from this news release are to be cited and/or referenced accordingly.
  9. A detailed news release calendar is available on:  
[https://nso.gov.mt/en/News\\_Releases/Release\\_Calendar/Pages/News-Release-Calendar.aspx](https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/Release_Calendar/Pages/News-Release-Calendar.aspx)